



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

PEGGY M. HATCH
SECRETARY

For Immediate Release
Dec . 1, 2011

Contact: Jean Kelly
Telephone: 225.219.3966

Holiday recycling helps you “Be the Solution” and protect the environment

BATON ROUGE - Louisiana, like the rest of the nation, produces more garbage in December than any other month. Reducing, recycling and reusing helps reduce trash and takes care of the environment. You can “Be the Solution” by following a few simple tips from DEQ.

When preparing for the holidays, think reuse and recycle

If you have outgrown toys and clothing, consider donating them to groups such as the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul, Goodwill, Volunteers of America or other organizations that reuse them. Discarded electronics (computers, copiers, fax machines, printers, monitors) may be donated to a local nonprofit, parent-teacher association or the Louisiana Area Corporate Recycling Council who provides computers to schools, families and nonprofits. Visit their Web site at www.cacrc.com for details. When you buy gifts, check the recycled content of your purchase and buy recycled where possible.

Pre-cycle your Christmas tree

Take recycling and reuse into consideration when you buy a tree. You can purchase an artificial tree that doesn't have to be discarded or a live tree that you can replant. If you have a cut tree, remember that tinsel, flocking and decorations must be removed before recycling. Trees, usually collected in early January, are ground up into compost or mulch. You can find out information about seasonal pickups and recycling at the East Baton Rouge Parish Recycling Web site <http://brgov.com/recycle>.

Foam peanuts batteries, cardboard and more can be recycled

To find out where to recycle foam peanuts, call the Peanut Hotline at 800-828-2214. If you are a retailer who would like to participate or for more information, go to www.loosefillpackaging.com/hotline . Buy rechargeable batteries for toys, cameras and gadgets. When those batteries no longer hold a charge, call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at 800-8-battery or go to their Web page at www.rbrc.org for the nearest battery-recycling drop off. Remember that most cardboard and paper can be recycled.

Have a safe holiday season and remember to never burn wrapping paper or Christmas trees in the fireplace. For more recycling ideas, go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/recycling. If you have recycling ideas to share, email us at deqassistance@la.gov.